

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

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FOR ASST SECY SISCO

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC
DTD 20 APR 73

QUOTE BAGHAD 0225

USINFO FOR
OR/ M, INE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, IZ

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRESIDENT' S ENERGY MESSAGE

REF: USIA 6944 CIRCULAR

1. REACTIONS TO ENERGY MESSAGE CARRIED FRONT PAGE ALL BAGHDAD PAPERS APRIL 19 BUT NOT LEAD STORY. BRIEF ARTICLES, PRESUMABLY FROM WIRE SERVICES, CARRIED ONLY MAJOR POINTS UNDER HEADLINES " U. S. ATTEMPT TO SOLVE POWER CRISIS" AND " NIXON CONFESSES THAT AMERICA FACING DANGEROUS ENERGY DEFICIT." PARTY PAPER ATH-THAWRA INCLUDED IN ITS ARTICLE ACCOUNT OF CLOSING OF INDEPENDENT GAS STATIONS IN U. S. DUE TO LACK OF FUEL AND CITED THIS AS EXAMPLE OF WEAKENING POWER OF U. S.

2. ON APRIL 20 SEMI- OFFICIAL BAGHDAD OBSERVER' S TOP STORY WAS HEADLINED " CAPITALIST WORLD RESTLESS OVER ENERGY CRISIS" AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID COMMON MARKET COMMISSIONER FOR ENERGY WILL VISIT U. S. IN MAY AS FIRST STEP TOWARD DEVELOPING COOPERATION BETWEEN EEC, US AND JAPAN. PAPER ALSO SAID SENATE' S REACTION TO PRESIDENT' S ENERGY MESSAGE WAS THAT IT DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH IN SEEKING TO REDUCE U. S. DEPENDENCE ON MIDDLE EAST OIL. PAPER SAID U. S. MEASURES WOULD RESULT IN HIGHER PRICES AND GREATER COMPETITION WHICH WILL BECOME EVIDENT IN 1975 PRICE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ON APRIL 20 OFFICIAL ATH- THAWRA AND AL- JUMHURIYAH DEVOTED FRONT PAGE ARTICLES TO REACTION OF U. S. OFFICIALS TO SAUDI PETMIN YAMANI' S ALLEGED STATEMENT THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT INCREASE PRODUCTION UNLESS U. S. CHANGED ITS POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL. U. S. OFFICIALS QUOTED AS CONFIDENT OF CONTINUED FLOW OF SAUDI OIL IN SPITE OF CONTINUING U. S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.

4. TV AND RADIO COVERAGE LIKELY TO FOLLOW SAME THEMES SINCE THEY RELY ON PRESS FOR MOST NEWS STORIES. NO EDITORIALS HAVE YET APPEARED.

5. COMMENT: IRAQ STRONGLY ADVOCATES USE OF OIL AS A WEAPON AGAINST U. S. POLICIES TOWARD ISRAEL AND IRAQI MEDIA HAVE FOR SOME MONTHS HIGHLIGHTED ENERGY CRISIS TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT THEY SEE AS GROWING VULNERABILITY OF U. S. TO ARAB OIL POWER.

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